

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claims listing replaces all prior claims listings:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery in which a battery device is accommodated in an exterior material, said exterior material comprising a laminated film and sealed therein by heat fusion, said method comprising:

(a) a battery device preparation step comprising layering a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a gel electrolyte to form said battery device;

(b) an accommodating step of accommodating the battery device from said battery device preparation step (a) within said laminated film;

(c) a first heating step of heating said battery device, accommodated in said laminated film in said accommodating step (b), under a uniformly pressured state;

(d) a charging step of charging the battery device following the first heating step (c);

(e) a discharging step of discharging the battery device following said charging step (d);

and

(f) a second heating step of heating the battery device under a uniformly pressured state, said step (f) occurring after step (e),

wherein,

at least one of steps (c) and (f) is performed by heating and pressuring said battery device using a block of heat-resistant rubber.

15 - 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery according to claim 14 wherein, in steps (c) and (f), the pressure applied to the battery device is set in a range from 490 to 2450 kPa.

27. (Previously presented) The method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery according to claim 14 wherein, in steps (c) and (f), the temperature of heating the battery device is set in a range from 50 °C to 105 °C.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery according to claim 14 wherein the heat-resistant rubber is silicon rubber.

30. (Original) The method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery according to claim 14 wherein the exterior material is a laminated film comprised of an Al foil on both sides of which are formed resin layers.

31. (Previously presented) The method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery according to claim 14 wherein, the gel electrolyte comprises a matrix polymer, a non-aqueous solvent and an electrolyte salt, and wherein a ratio B/A is equal to 1 wt% or less, B being of the amount of the non-aqueous solvent boiling at a temperature of 110 °C or lower under ambient pressure, A being the total amount of the non-aqueous solvent contained in the gel electrolyte.

32. (Previously presented) The method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery according to claim 14 wherein a matrix polymer in the gel electrolyte is at least one material selected from the group of polyacrylonitrile, polyethylene oxides, hexafluoropropylene,

tetrafluoroethylene, vinyl acetate, methyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, itaconic acid, hydrogenated methyl acrylate, hydrogenated ethyl acrylate, acrylic amide, vinyl chloride, vinylidene fluoride, vinylidene chloride, acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber, acrylonitrile-butadiene styrene resin, acrylonitrile-polyethylene chloride propylene diene styrenic resin, acrylonitrile-vinyl chloride resin, acrylonitrile-methacrylate resin, acrylonitrile-acrylate resin, polyether modified siloxane and copolymers thereof.

33. (Previously presented) The method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery according to claim 14 wherein, in said step (a), a polyolefinic micro-porous separator is arranged, along with the gel electrolyte, between the positive and negative electrodes.

34. (Previously presented) The method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery according to claim 14 wherein, in said step (a), a strip-like positive electrode and a strip-like negative electrode are layered together via a gel electrolyte and coiled longitudinally to form a battery device.

35. (Previously presented) The method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery according to claim 34 wherein, in said step (a), a micro-porous separator is arranged between a positive electrode and a negative electrode, said positive electrode comprising a positive active material layer and a first gel electrolyte layer, and said negative electrode comprising a negative active material layer and a gel electrolyte layer.

36. (Previously presented) The method for preparation of a gel electrolyte battery according to claim 14 wherein, said battery device preparation step (a) comprises:

(a1) layering a positive electrode on each surface of a positive electrode collector, said positive electrode comprising (i) a positive active material layer comprising a lithium compound oxide and (ii) a gel electrolyte layer, and said positive electrode collector comprising a metal foil;

(a2) layering a negative electrode on each surface of a negative electrode collector, said negative electrode comprising (iii) a negative active material layer comprising a material capable of doping/undoping lithium and (iv) a gel electrolyte layer, and said negative electrode comprising a metal foil; and

(a3) layering together and coiling longitudinally said positive electrode and the negative electrode.